

Alice Nielsen's Hit in the Tuneful "Singing Girl." Julia Marlowe's Appearance as "Barbara Frietchie."

ALAN DALE REVIEWS NEW COMIC OPERA.

Says That the Topical Song "Follow Me" Perhaps Supplies Some of the Ginger Necessary to Make the Production a Go.

A WAY away from the "religious was his retort. Sounds rather tame, doesn't it?" topio," the "sex problem" and the deadly, insidious "purpose play" - way to the land of gay impossible comic opera (when I say "gay," I mean sometimes gay), when girls are boys and boys are girls, and every one wants to marry everybody else, and lovely gentlemen in satin trousers sing londly ballads surrounded by dizzy troops of chorus girls. Away, away - no, on second consideration, perhaps I had better get there.

The gay, impossible comic opera on this occasion was "The Singing Girl," presented at the Casino last night by the Alice Nielsen Opera Company, and introducing the cunning little singing soubrette who in "The Fortune Teller" last season took hold of our affections and proved to us that a comic opera "star" need not necessarily be fat, forty and frisky. Miss Nielsen, at that occasion burst upon us like "a lightning vision" - as they say in the penny dreadfuls. And on this brand-new occasion she didn't burst quite so vigorously as before it was through no fault of her own. She sang just as blithely, looked just as youthful, and wore her trowsers with the same feminine grace as last year. Nor were there any indications of that fatal acquisition known as "the swollen head." Surprise though it be, after her career with the Bostonians, Miss Nielsen is still as unostentatious and non-starlike as ever, and she was willing, as far as she herself was concerned, to give a chance to all.

"The Singing Girl," however, is not another case of "Fortune Teller." It suffers from what, with the best of intentions, it is impossible to call otherwise than a dabbly "book," from the pen of Stanislaus Strange, with lyrics by that lyrical monopolist and comic opera Rockefeller known as Harry B. Smith. Mr. Strange, to be sure, gave Miss Nielsen the chance to be her own brother (the little lady is very fond of supplying herself with male relatives), but there was a deadly lack of comedy that at times became quite oppressive. The little star buried herself incessantly with the "plot" (the plots of comic opera should be sterilized and packed away), and bobbed up incessantly before the audience either as Greta, the singing girl, or as Greta's brother - always in love with somebody and on the verge of marrying somebody else. She could not be expected to supply comedy. But the other characters might have been a little kinder. All we got in the way of badinage was that sweet little dialect entertainment lurking in such phrases as "I shall go an indignation if you interrupt me" and a few feeble jokes from Mr. Joseph Herbert. One comic "ballet" (ditty in the second act) awoke the audience from a lethargy that was "softly stealing" over them. In "The Singing Girl" the comic opera had very little of the comic about its institution. After we had finished admiring the cuteness of Miss Nielsen and revelling in the pretty songs that she sang so charmingly we turned involuntarily to the librettist for contrast, and it was not forthcoming.

I am not going to describe the plot beyond saying that it dealt with an edict of the Governor of Linz, which compelled "Bettina" (couples to marry or go to prison). It is not necessary to say more than this, for I have already told you that Miss Nielsen appears as her own brother, and perhaps I had better add that her own brother appears as Miss Nielsen, on the principle, I presume, of exchange being no robbery. The story was very legitimately told, which is a mistake. For the story of comic opera is always so utterly illogical that you want to forget it as much as possible, and, thankless for any little diversion, "The Singing Girl" belongs to the old-fashioned brand that sticks like a leech to its theme and is determined to hang on until the tangle has unraveled itself.

Victor Herbert's music is light, occasionally rather primitive, and often "cutesy." It is vastly inferior to his lovely "Cyrano" strains. There ought to be some law forbidding a composer to evolve more than one comic opera per season. It is a greedy idea, this idea of perpetual grind. No man - except Harry B. Smith - can work all the time. And, by-the-by, I can say nothing of Mr. Smith's lyrics. They were swallows winged by the company. I could bear them being massacred, and though I tried hard to pick a few from the rutless teeth of the singers, it was impossible. On Herbert's music the best things were a swinging song, rendered by Cowles in the first act, a delightful theme and chorus dominated by Miss Nielsen, and that comic "ballet" affair to which I have before alluded.

News of the Theatres.

W. H. Crane is rehearsing a new play by Martha Morton.

To-night James A. Herne will produce a new play in Boston called "Sag Harbor." The first of the series of modern plays to be brought over by John B. H. White is "El Gran Galateo," by Jose Echegaray, on November 15 and 16.

The musical productions to be given at the Empire Theatre will be "The Song of the Sword," in which E. H. Sothern and Virginia Harriet will be seen at Daly's Theatre.

Oscar Butler's imitations, as Landgrave, and Baron Berthold, as Tannhaeuser, carried off the singing honors of the evening. Miss Rose de Freylin, as Falstaff, sang with great decidedness. The other combined parts were Wolfram, sung by William Mertens, Biterolf, by E. N. Kugler, Walter, by Harry Davies, and Venus by Cecile Hardy.

**ETTA BUTLER'S IMITATIONS
A HIT AT KOSTER & BIAL'S.**

Other Features of a Strong Bill Please the Audience at the Music Hall.

One of the strongest features of last night's bill at Koster & Bial's was Etta Butler in imitations of Violet Allen as Glory Quayle. Some of the best of her old repertoire were retained, and the impersonation of May Irwin was so realistic as to call forth repeated roars. Bedini and Arthur, the jugglers, have become great favorites. Etta Butler has some new juggling devices as well.

The Six Crangs, termed "Alpine Mountain Men," made their appearance in this country after an absence of several years, and they bring with them an act entirely new. There are six men and boys who compose the family, first disclosed standing on the top of a mountain at a height of over four feet, dressed in skins, and they then come to earth in a series of graceful ends and somersaults through the air which ends in tableau. Adelinde Hermann and Sophie, her first appearance at this theatre since a night in Japan, also performed.

David Belasco has engaged William Elton, who comes from London with "A Little Ray of Sunshine," for his new comedy, "Naughty Anthony." He will be produced after the holidays.

Eugene Jerome will direct "The Girl from Maryland," next to be produced by Joseph Allen.

Cornine began her tour last night in "The Little Hours," a new musical comedy produced by the Belasco company. William L. Purdy, Robert Graham, Louis Delance and Ruth White.

The Empire stock company is rehearsing "My Fair Lady," a new comic opera, to be produced for the first time at the Casino on October 27.

The Comptoners, a new comic opera, was produced for the first time at the Casino last night. F. J. Stewart composed the music and Guy M. St. John wrote the book. It had a short run. There was a crowded house at night, and the opera was received with great favor.

Edward Chapman made his first appearance last night in "A Little Bit of Everything" in a Strange Land.

Another week of the run of the "Maid in the Moon," it has been extremely well received. Its audience applauded the "great golden spectacle," and a few new songs were introduced with good effect.

The Comptoners, a new comic opera, was produced for the first time at the Casino last night. F. J. Stewart composed the music and Guy M. St. John wrote the book. It had a short run. There was a crowded house at night, and the opera was received with great favor.

Charles A. Bigelow, the comedian, who made his debut in "The Little Hours," at the Casino, and other light operas, was presented Sunday with a handsome luncheon and prayer book by James Long Island, where the comedian was spending the summer. The gift was a token of appreciation for Bigelow's services as the church choir. Mr. Bigelow has passed only one Sunday in four months.



Julia Marlowe and Alice Nielsen in New Offerings.

Terse war scenes were revealed in "Barbara Frietchie," the play by Clyde Fitch in which Miss Marlowe appeared at the Criterion last night. Alice Nielsen appeared in a sparkling new comic opera at the Casino.

**TANNHAEUSER" SUNG
IN ENGLISH AT AMERICAN.**

Wagner's Opera Produced with Care by the Castle Square Opera Company.

Wagner's "Tannhaeuser" had its first production in English at the American Theatre last night. It was much the most ambitious attempt of the Castle Square Opera Company's present season, and a crowd that filled every seat and all available standing room in the house seemed enthusiastically pleased with the effort.

The production last night was upon an elaborate scale, new scenery had been painted and entirely new costumes provided. Everything was modelled upon the great London production of the opera and the execution was exceptionally faithful.

The opening scene of the first act, representing the forest in Venus's kingdom, was typically Wagnerian. There was just enough gaiety and quietude about it to be poetically significant of the godland it represented.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.

The chorus, so prominent a feature in Castle Square Opera productions, opened the curtain with a bang.